Mr. E. P. Varghese; Sir, with the remarks that I have made about the way in which the demand is made at every session when it could very well have been included in the last budget and especially at the time when the next budget is so very near, I do think we can very safely postpone the work till the budget session. With these words I oppose the motion.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I have not many words to say. I should like to say in reply to the first speaker that according to the rules we should open the gates on the 20th May and pending instructions the gates were opened and immediately closed in view of the fact that no benefit could be derived from such a small amount of water in the lake at that time.

Mr. E. P. Varghese May I know from the member whether the work is to be done by the department or to be given on contract?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: The work is being done by the department.

Regarding the cutting of trees in the catchment area I do not think the cutting already done has any effect on the rainfall, but I may tell the members that in a short time proposals for increasing the catchment area will be submitted to Government and also that proposals are before Government at the present time for erecting shutters on the surplus weir whereby the lake level can be raised by 3 feet. And regarding the question of the last speaker, I would say that the money is required for payment this year.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know, from the member whether this is the first time that a demand for closing of the leakages of the dam is made?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I have not made any previous proposals.

The demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—EXCISE.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5,728 composed of Rs. 4,400 under transport charges of salt and Rs. 1,328 for the staff of the Sri Chitra Tirunal Muthuswamy Salt Factory opened at Kovalam near the Cape and the Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory.

I shall briefly explain the circumstances under which the supplementary demand has been made for transport charges of salt. This year tenders were invited for the transport of 2 lakhs of maunds of salt from the factories to the depots. A provision of Rs. 50,000 had been made in the budget for the current year under this item. The contract for transport was given to the lowest

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tenderer and the transport business was undertaken by him and when his bills were received it was found that Rs. 50,000 sanctioned under this item was inadequate to meet this demand. Hence the supplementary demand is necessary to satisfy his claim. He has done the work according to the agreement and he has to be paid for the work.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member how his claim swelled up?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : It is not a question of swelling up. It is a question of a smaller sum being provided in the budget and that being not sufficient to meet the claim.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member what are the rates of transport charges from the various Alloms during last year and this year?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : The rate of transport charges varies from year to year. We invite tenders for the work and we accept the lowest tender.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member what are the rates last year and this year?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Last year transport had been effected to Trivandrum and Munambom depots. The charges to Trivandrum Depot were Rs. 17 per 100 maunds and for Munambom Depot Rs. 24. This year we have transported salt to Munambom, Trivandrum and Quilon. The charge for Munambom is Rs. 29 as against Rs. 24 last year. For Quilon the charge this year is Rs. 24 per 100 maunds.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether there was any increase in the quantity of salt transported this year?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Last year on account of scarcity of salt we could not transport as much as we wanted. This year we have more salt and we have transported 2 lakhs of maunds of salt.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether the Excise Commissioner can give to the House the figures relating to the transport of salt from the various Alloms to the various Depots in 1109 and this year up-to-date?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Yes. Last year the contractor transported 10,000 maunds of salt to the Trivandrum Depot and 1,05,000 maunds of salt to Munambom Depot. This year we transported 10,000 maunds to Trivandrum Depot, 1,12,500 maunds to Munambom Depot and 77,500 maunds to Quilon Depot.

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Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai May I know whether the Excise Commissioner considered the difference in rates in 1109 and 1110, *i. e.*, when it was Rs. 17 for transport to Trivandrum in 1109, in 1110 it seems to be Rs. 21-8-0, or has the Excise Commissioner any discretion in accepting tenders?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: The Excise Commissioner has absolutely no discretion. We invite tenders, tenders are presented and we accept the lowest rates when we are satisfied that the tenderer will be able to execute the contract.

Mr. M N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether he has entertained the whole staff required from the 1st Kumbhom 1110?

President: That question relates to the second part of the demand.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: I am at present explaining the circumstances under which the first item of the demand is made.

Two new factories were opened of which one began to work even last year and the other in Makaram this year. Salt is being manufactured in both the factories and we want a staff to supervise the storage and issue of salt. So far as Tattarippu Odai Factory is concerned I have deputed one Petty officer and two peons from the Colachel Factory. So far as the Kovalam Factory is concerned a new staff has been entertained as nobody could be spared from any other factories. The pay and allowances for the staff for the two new factories come to Rs. 1,328 and I move for a grant of that amount under that item.

Mr. M N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether he has entertained the whole staff required for the salt factories from the 1st of Kumbham?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Orders were passed on the 1st Kumbham. Some of the staff joined duty on the 3rd. Others came later on. It was only on the 20th that the full staff was available for duty.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member how the pay for the months of Kumbhom, Meenam and Medom was disbursed?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: For Kumbhom and Meenam we provided funds by diverting from other items. For the remaining months I am before the House with this demand.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether the pay for Medam has not been disbursed till now?

Mr. C O. Madhavan: No.

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Mr M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member from what item the diversion was made?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : There was some amount sanctioned for improving the Rajakkamangalam Allom ; that improvement has not been done and the money was diverted from that item.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member the extent of the Tattarippu Odai Factory?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Roughly 35 acres.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member the quantity of salt Mr. Karayalar had to supply every year and the quantity to be supplied by the owner of the Tattarippu Odai Factory.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : So far as Mr. Karayalar is concerned the quantity has not been definitely settled. It is pending orders with Government. As regards the Tattarippu Odai Factory the owner has agreed to deliver 2,000 maunds of salt.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know the rates of Kudivila fixed for Mr. Karayalar and others?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Two and threefourth annas per maund.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether the learned Excise Commissioner considered the fact that when in 1109 the amount mentioned in the tender was Rs. 17, that mentioned in the tender of 1110 was Rs. 21 for transporting salt to the Trivandrum Depot?

President : Did this catch your attention ; the rate offered or accepted was more high this year than the previous year and did you see that it was satisfactory when compared to the rates of previous years?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Though the rates fixed this year are a little higher than those of 1109, the rates are much lower than those of previous years. In 1109 very low rates were quoted and we were benefited.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member the particular reason why low rates were quoted for 1109?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : In 1108, there was a keen competition and a gentleman belonging to Travancore having interest in salt business came up newly to the field and he quoted very low rate. Anticipating the competition on his part, ths contractor from Tuticorin quoted very low rates last year and so we got the business done very cheaply.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi : May I know from the member the rates for 11107 and 1108?

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Mr. C. O. Madhavan: In 1108, for Trivandrum the rate was Rs. 19-15-0; and in 1109, the corresponding rate was Rs. 17-0-0.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know the rate for 1107?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: There was no transport to Trivandrum that year. There was transport that year to Munambam and the rate to Munambam in 1107 was Rs. 45 and in 1108 it went down to Rs. 37½.

President: The motion before the House is that Government be given a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,728 towards transport charges of salt and towards payment to the staff for Sri Chitra Thirunal Muthusvami Salt Factory and for the Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: I wish to speak a few words.

President: You had sat down. I can't help it.

The demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 700 under item XXIV—Stationery and Printing. Sir, a staff consisting of an Assistant Engineer, a foreman, a clerk and a lascar is now engaged in taking stock of the type-plant in the Central Prision Press and the Government Press. This staff has been working for nearly 6 months now and the period will close in a few days. So far, the stock taking of the type plant in the type stores in the Government Press and in the Central Prison Press has been finished. And there yet remains the stock taking of the type plant in the composing sections in the Government Press. After taking stock, an inventory has to be prepared and it has to be compared with the book balances.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know whether it is the idea of the Government to complete the stock taking at least this time?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the Chief Secretary how many times officers were deputed previously to take stock in the Government Press and why their work was suspended or discontinued?

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